

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050933

ZMO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION

REF: USNATO 1261

1. WE AGREE WITH YOUR PROPOSAL TO SUBSTITUTE "RATIONAL-
IZATION" FOR "SPECIALIZATION" IF THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED
WITHOUT UNDERMINING THE MECHANISM ESTABLISHED AS A FOLLOW-
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ON TO THE DUTCH INITIATIVE. OTHERWISE, WE MAY ACHIEVE THE

SAME RESULT BY CONCENTRATION ON RATIONALIZATION WHILE ALLOWING SPECIALIZATION TO PASS FROM THE NATO VOCABULARY.

2. FYI THE ALLIED CAUTION TOWARDS THE US MATRIX AND THE RATIONALIZATION CONCEPT UNDERSCORES OUR DESIRE TO AVOID THE TROUBLESOME COURSE THAT SPECIALIZATION TOOK. IN OUR VIEW, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO AVOID SHORT TERM DEADLINES THAT MAY HAZARD THE LONG TERM POSSIBILITIES OF THE RATIONALIZATION MATRIX AND IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE NOT APPEAR TO BE TOO SELF-SERVING IN THE SELECTION OF OUR INITIAL PROPOSALS.

WE EXPECT THAT BY EARLY MAY WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A DETAILED MATRIX WITH SAVINGS AND COSTS CALCULATED BY US FROM AVAILABLE DATA. OUR MATRIX WILL FOCUS ON THOSE EFFICIENCIES AND IMPROVEMENTS CONTAINED IN OUR ILLUSTRATIVE

MATRIX AND ON THOSE ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITIES WE ADDRESSED BRIEFLY DURING THE INFORMAL PRESENTATION. WE WOULD CONSIDER IT REASONABLE PROGRESS IF EWG RECOMMENDS THE MATRIX RATIONALIZATION APPROACH TO MINISTERS IN JUNE AND REPORTS THAT EWG IS STUDYING DETAILED US AND ALLIED PROPOSALS. END FYI

3. WE ARE MOST ANXIOUS TO HAVE NATIONAL COMMENTS ON THE INITIAL MATRIX AND WOULD WELCOME ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONAL ROLES THAT ALLIES MIGHT WISH TO ADD TO THE MATRIX FOR INVESTIGATION. IT IS IMPORTANT AT THIS STAGE TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT ON THE TRADEOFF CONCEPT REFLECTED IN MATRIX APPROACH. MISSION MIGHT CONSIDER HAVING THE DPC ASK FOR AN EARLY MEETING OF THE EWG TO CONSIDER FUTURE STUDIES OF RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION. MISSION COULD THEN PROPOSE US MATRIX AND TRADEOFF CONCEPT AS POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR DISCUSSION. ASSUMING THAT THE ALLIES WOULD BE ABLE TO OBTAIN NECESSARY GUIDANCE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, A SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF THE EWG, CONVENED IN THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL, WOULD SERVE TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE. THE TWOFOLD IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES OF THE DIALOGUE WOULD BE AGREEMENT UPON THE VALIDITY OF THE

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TRADE-OFF CONCEPT OF RATIONALIZATION AND GATHERING ALLIED IMPRESSIONS OF OUR INITIAL MATRIX. AT THAT TIME, MISSION COULD RECOMMEND THAT THE EWG ASK THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AND THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS TO REPORT ON POSSIBLE TRADE-OFFS WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION AS PART OF A MATRIX (PARA 5D, REFTTEL).

4. WE WISH TO AVOID HAVING EWG STUDY THOSE OTHER

SPECIFIC EXAMPLES CITED IN PARA 5 OF REFTTEL AT THIS
TIME IN ORDER FIRST TO OBTAIN NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR THE
CONCEPT. KISSINGER

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